

Road closures to affect North Valley drivers, find detours

ABC 15

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A frontage road will be closed for two weeks causing drivers in the North Valley to use alternate routes, according to a Thursday release from the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The closure of the southbound Interstate 17 frontage road between Jomax and Happy Valley roads will begin at 4 a.m. on August 4th and is expected to reopen at 5 a.m. on August 19th.

The construction is part of a freeway reconstruction effort that is planned for completion in 2009.

According to ADOT, the closure will allow crews to complete their work ahead of schedule and re-open ramps and frontage roads on the southbound portion of the Happy Valley roundabout.

The two-week project will be a part of the new I-17 ramps and frontage roads that are under construction at Happy Valley Road.

Happy Valley Road will be restricted to one lane in each direction at the west roundabout during the construction.

For drivers, this closure will affect an existing detour route.

Currently, southbound drivers cannot exit I-17 for Happy Valley Road and must exit at Jomax Road and continue on the southbound I-17 frontage road to Happy Valley Road.

However, while this frontage road is closed, I-17 traffic will use the southbound off-ramp at Pinnacle Peak Road and then travel north on either I-17 or on 29th Avenue to access Happy Valley Road.

The planned improvements include widening the freeway between Loop 101 and Carefree Highway, building new interchanges at multiple locations to improve access, and reconstructing the existing interchanges at Carefree Highway and Deer Valley Road.

The improvements are part of the Regional Transportation Plan, approved by voters in 2004.

Another RTP project to widen I-17 between Carefree Highway and Anthem Way is expected to begin in 2009 and finish in 2010.

More information about I-17 improvements, including maps and timetables, can be found at www.azdot.gov/ValleyFreeways or by calling the I-17 hotline at (480) 890-3055.